



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

June 22, 2005

MR ERNIE LAZAR
577 SOUTH THORNHILL ROAD, #6
PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264 7884

80-236 #1 2/21/51
#43 8/6/63

✓ Subject: AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE AGAINST
COMMUNISM INC
FOIPA No. 1010124- 000

HC 80-236

Dear Mr. Lazar:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552

Section 552a

- ☐ (b)(1)
- ☒ (b)(2)
- ☐ (b)(3) _____
- _____
- _____
- ☐ (b)(4)
- ☐ (b)(5)
- ☐ (b)(6)

- ☐ (b)(7)(A)
- ☐ (b)(7)(B)
- ☒ (b)(7)(C)
- ☒ (b)(7)(D)
- ☐ (b)(7)(E)
- ☐ (b)(7)(F)
- ☐ (b)(8)
- ☐ (b)(9)

- ☐ (d)(5)
- ☐ (j)(2)
- ☐ (k)(1)
- ☐ (k)(2)
- ☐ (k)(3)
- ☐ (k)(4)
- ☐ (k)(5)
- ☐ (k)(6)
- ☐ (k)(7)

67 page(s) were reviewed and 67 page(s) are being released.

- ☐ Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been:
 - ☐ referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you.
 - ☐ referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

☒ You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Co-Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, Flag Building, Suite 570, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001 within sixty days from the date of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

☐ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown, when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

☐ See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,



David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC

DATE:

FROM : SA [redacted]

2/21/51

SUBJECT: AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE AGAINST COMMUNISM
Anti-Communist Activity

On February 20, 1951, [redacted] stated to the writer [redacted]
[redacted] a function of the above organization
at 8:15 PM, February 22, 1951, at the Colonial Room, Ambassador Hotel,
Los Angeles, at which ALFRED KOHNBERG, one of the founders of subject
organization would speak. [redacted]
[redacted] Hollywood 46, California. [redacted] also stated
there would be a dinner for KOHNBERG at 6:30 PM the same date and place.

✓36
80-202

DEAD 80-236-1
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
FEB 21 1951
FBI - LOS ANGELES
put future info here
opened and
2/26/51

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 06-15-2005 BY 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/bls

b2
b7C
b7D

Los Angeles
July 1951

1 song sheet "YOU'LL LAY AN EGG" UNCLE JOE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 06-15-2005 BY 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/bis



80-236-1a

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 18 1951
FBI - LOS ANGELES

Sh

b7C

Date Received 7/9/51
From Max G. Merritt
(Name of contributor)
8 x 6 to. Herbert M. M.
(Address of contributor)
By [Redacted]
(Name of Special Agent)
To Be Returned Yes: ☐
No ☒
Description:
1 Song Sheet "You'll Lay An
Egg Under Joe."
File No. 80-236-1a1
Jem.

"YOU'LL LAY AN EGG, UNCLE JOE"

Words and Music by
MAX MERRITT

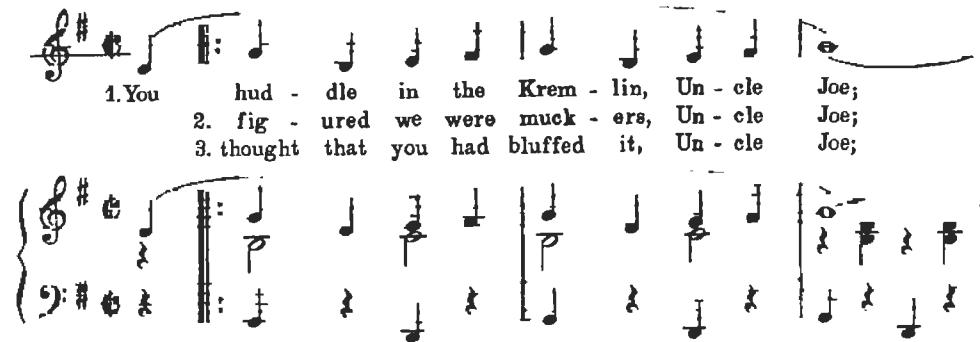


ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 06-15-2005 BY 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/b1s

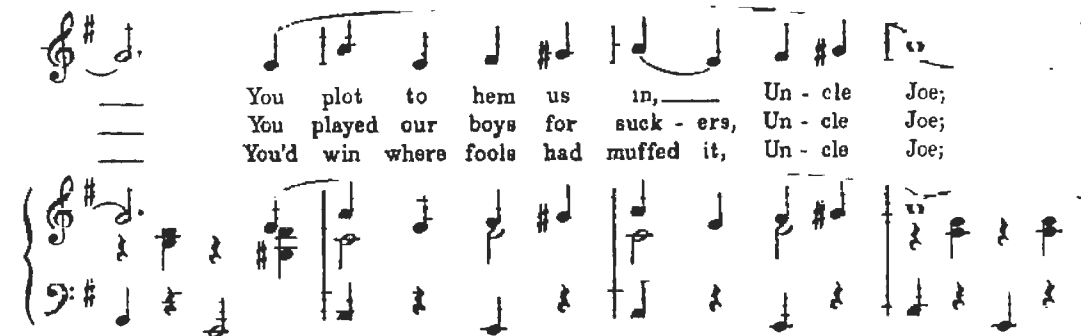
MERIT MUSIC COMPANY
826 S. Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles 5, California

Dedicated to our boys in Korea
"YOU'LL LAY AN EGG, UNCLE JOE!"

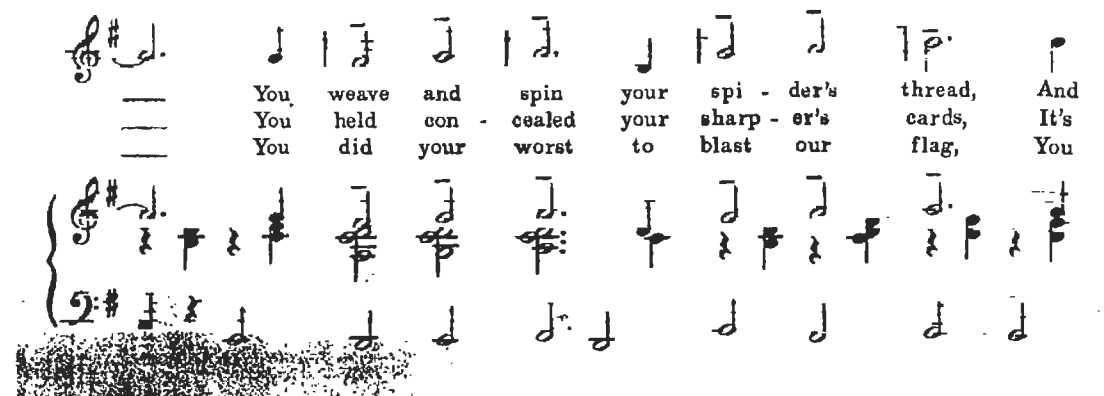
Words and Music by
MAX MERRITT



1. You hud - dle in the Krem - lin, Un - cle Joe;
2. fig - ured we were muck - ers, Un - cle Joe;
3. thought that you had bluffed it, Un - cle Joe;



You plot to hem us in, Un - cle Joe;
You played our boys for suck - ers, Un - cle Joe;
You'd win where fools had muffed it, Un - cle Joe;



You weave and spin your spi - der's thread, And
You held con - cealed your sharp - er's cards, It's
You did your worst to blast our flag, You

scheme to turn the whole world red; You're playin' a
 thought you're great by all your pard's; We failed to
 think the vic - t'ry's in the bag; We're out to

game for keeps, But he who sows he al - so
 say you nay, And so you tucked the spoils a -
 make it clear, We're Yanks who laugh at pan - ic

reaps. You aim to take us down a peg, Un - cle
 way. You grinned when you had pulled our leg, Un - cle
 fear You think a - gain you'll play the yegg, Un - cle

Joe "But YOU'LL LAY AN EGG, UN - CLE JOE!" 2. You
 Joe "But YOU'LL LAY AN EGG, UN - CLE JOE!" 3. You
 Joe "But YOU'LL LAY AN EGG, UN - CLE JOE!"

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 06-15-2005 BY 60309/AUC/1AM/UCG/bls

7/9/51 (via mail)
- ind from
meritt
center
with long
- 1-

SAC

June 1, 1951

SA [REDACTED]

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

On May 5, 1951, a written report [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of the American
Jewish League Against Communism [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] concerning a meeting held Monday evening, April 30,
1951, [REDACTED] as a memorial service in honor of the late Rabbi STEPHEN
WISF in the Community Hall of the Sinai Synagogue, 406 South New Hampshire
Street, Los Angeles. This meeting was under the auspices of the Southern
California Division of the American Jewish Congress. Chairman of the
meeting was Rabbi LEONARD GREENBERG, identified [REDACTED] as Executive
Director of the Southern California Division of the American Jewish Congress.

On the platform were MEYER PRANSKY; ANN POLLACK; THEODORE BAUMAN;
Dr. I. M. ROBINSON, an officer of the NAACP; and Reverend STEPHEN FRITCHMAN.
Rev. FRITCHMAN, the principal speaker, stated the general theme of the
memorial service was "What would Stephen Wise Say If He Were Here Today?"
FRITCHMAN used as his theme, "The Re-Nazification of Western Germany",
reminding his audience of some 250 middle-aged Jewish men and women of the
awful tragedy of the slaughter of six million Jews by HITLER. He warned
the audience that re-Nazification of Western Germany by the Western powers
is fraught with danger for Jews and for the world. He condemned the Western
Allies for their actions in Western Germany and spoke against the release of
German war criminals. He attacked the rebuilding of a German army and the
encouragement of German cartels. He spoke against what he insisted was a
reactionary scheme to clothe veteran Nazis with authority once again as
judges, teachers, and civil servants.

He also charged that the West German Premier, ADENAUER, is an old-
time veteran Nazi (which FRITCHMAN pointed out is a gross untruth). FRITCHMAN
finally gave unstinted praise to the Soviet for what he termed was an excel-
lent program for the education of East German youth, which [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] is not the truth. FRITCHMAN praised the break-up of the landed
estates in East Germany by the Soviet, and the parcelling out of these
estates into small sections for the landless German peasants. He applauded
the expropriation of German factories in East Germany, which put an end to
the German industrialists. He climaxed his praise of the Soviet by claiming
that Russia alone among the great powers "yearns for peace". FRITCHMAN
stated that if only the Allies would introduce into Western Europe the
constructive and progressive program the Soviet have introduced into East
Germany, the most difficult problem for Central Europe and the world would
be solved.

He urged the audience to give these recommendations earnest
thought and to what they could to advance them to fulfillment.

SW:JLD

100-25370-226A

CC: 100-24642 (. FRITCHMAN) 100-22593 [REDACTED]
100-5589 (NAACP) 100-236-4 (AMER. JEWISH LEAGUE
AGAINST COMMUNISM)

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 1 1951
FBI - LOS ANGELES

77-236-

LA 100-25370-226A

Rabbi GREENBERG thanked FRITCHMAN for a magnificent, constructive address and volunteered that it was one of the most outstanding addresses ever delivered to an American Jewish Congress audience.

b7D

[redacted] original report in connection with the foregoing is found in Los Angeles file 100-25370, serial 226.

SAC

July 10, 1951

SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
SECURITY MATTER - C

On June 19, 1951, Dr. MAX J. MERRITT, Los Angeles Director of the American Jewish League against Communism, telephoned the writer and stated that he had been contacted by [REDACTED] and the latter had told him that he was co-operating with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and had furnished information to Special Agent [REDACTED]

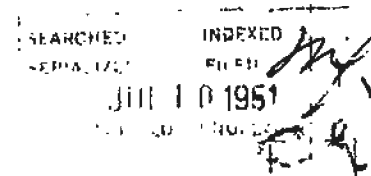
No comment was made by the writer to Dr. MERRITT concerning [REDACTED] reliability or whether or not he had furnished information to this Office.

R/P:mes

100-34626

cc: 80-236 (Jewish League against Communism)

b7C



80-236-3

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 06-15-2005 BY 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/bls

...in his seat, speaking with Senator
Joseph McCarthy, placing the A.D.L. as
forming an important responsibility in
Jewish community in sitting down in
with Senator McCarthy and dis-
tinctly of mutual interest.

We can understand the American Jewish
League Against Communism's indignation at
the A.D.L.'s action in sitting down with an-
other "fighter" against communists. But
wonder if Senator McCarthy is not some-
thing else besides a foe of communism.

We wonder if it were necessary for Sen-
ator McCarthy to make an impassioned speech
in Congress to free the Nazi murderers of
G.I.'s at Malmady, in order to fight commu-
nism. We wonder if it were necessary for him
to associate with the shady characters who
opened a smear attack against the
Secretary of Defense, Anna Rosenberg. We
wonder if it were necessary for Senator Mc-
Carthy to establish one of the poorest re-
cords on matters affecting the democratic
welfare of all the people to prove his
Americanism.

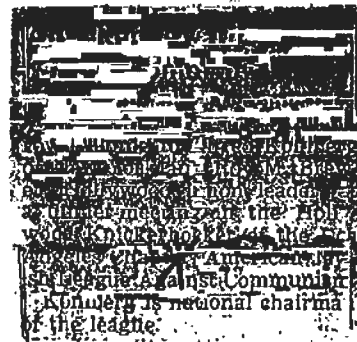
But what intrigues us most in the re-
ported message of congratulations to the
Defamation League is the statement
that we also trust that the A.D.L. leaders
will no longer use "McCarthyism" as a term
of reproach. Perhaps they will now share
the platform with Senator McCarthy at
large anti-communist rallies.

This is not the first time we have come
across the appeal not to use the word "Mc-
Carthyism" as a term of reproach. We
found it in an editorial of a mid-West Eng-
lish-Jewish weekly. On the excuse that
McCarthy is "awakening the American peo-
ple to the dangers of communism," we
forgive the Senator for all his omis-
sions and commissions. Which leads us
to the following analysis: On the
basis of the above, we can conclude
that the A.D.L. is not a Jewish
organization, but a Jewish-Jewish
organization.

80-236

EDITORIAL
B'nai B'rith Messenger
JANUARY 25, 1952
PAGE 4, COL 1

80-236-4
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 29 1952
FBI - LOS ANGELES



76-236*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 06-15-2005 BY 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/bls

80-236-5

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 26 1952	
FBI - LOS ANG.	

FEB 26 1952

LOS ANGELES TIMES
DATED

FEB 26 1952

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 06-15-2005 BY 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/bls

At Moscow Purge Trial

When Rabbi Max John Merritt was recently interviewed on the American Jewish League's fight against communist infiltration in to the Jewish fold, he had this to say:

"Years ago we warned that Jews could never be secure under a totalitarian government and that it was only a matter of time when Stalin, like Hitler, would use the Jews as a scapegoat in a period of emergency. Those warnings have proven fatefully true.

"That we were the first to expose the true nature of communism and that we have had years of experience in meeting and defeating communist infiltration, justifies our claim to leadership.

"Furthermore," says Rabbi Merritt, "the Los Angeles Chapter of the League has a plan to petition the Russian Ambassador in Washington to permit the sending of an American lawyer to Moscow to sit in as an observer at the forthcoming trial of the Russian Jewish doctors charged with crimes that the free world refuses to believe are justified. If our plan succeeds, our observer will bring back a story that will shock our people for whom justice has been a sacred tradition."

B'NAI B'RITH MESSENGER
2-6-53

B. 15, Col 3

80-236-6
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

FEB - 1953
FBI - LOS ANGELES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 06-15-2005 BY 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/bls

NOW THAT THE MASK IS OFF

Herald-Express Jan. 18

The evidence is piling up that anti-Semitism is as much Joe Stalin's policy as it was Hitler's policy. But it isn't a new policy with Stalin.

It has been a key part of his program since he murdered the Jewish Bolsheviks, Trotsky, Kamenev, Zinoviev and others, and it was indicated again when he got rid of Litvinov while he was negotiating the Soviet-Nazi alliance.

The Red Hitler, however, has in the past been careful to avoid the language and the appearance of anti-Semitism.

Nevertheless, such organizations

The American Jewish League Against Communism have been warning American Jewry about the relationship between Communism and Nazism. For seven long years, the Commies and their fellow travelers have used the smear technique against us. For seven long years, the well-meaning liberals have ignored the smears.

But now the mask is off — and only the totally blind will not admit that we were right. Won't you join now in this fight against the Godless Terror of Communism? Send your contribution today. The yearly dues are ten dollars. The yearly reward is in seeing another Communist front exposed. And not one cent of your contribution has been or will be used for salaries for anyone. It all goes into the fight for Country, God and Freedom.

American Jewish League Against Communism

Los Angeles Chapter, 826 So. Hobart, Apt. 502

Rabbi M. J. Merritt, Executive Director

B'NAI B'RITH MESSENGER

2-6-53

B. 2, Col. 142

80-236-7

SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED *me* FILED *me*

FEB - 1953
FBI - LOS ANGELES



RABBI MERRITT (RIGHT) HONORED AS ANTI-RED
McGuinness award presented by Roy M. Brewer.

L.A. Rabbi Max Merritt Honored in Fight on Reds

Rabbi Max Merritt of 926 S. Mrs. Jane S. McIlvaine, Hobart Blvd. was given the editor of the Downingtown (Pa.) James Kevan McGuinness \$1000 Archive who described her reward by the Motion Picture Alliance last night as "the American who last year did the most to combat Communism."

The award was made by Roy M. Brewer after he was installed as new president of the alliance at the Hollywood American Legion Hall. Another highlight of the meeting was the donation by Mark Armistead, owner of a Hollywood camera rental company, of the rental fees he received from the allegedly Communist producers of the film, "Salt of the Earth."

Rabbi Merritt is executive director of the Los Angeles chapter of the American Jewish League Against Communism.

Guest speaker at the affair

L.A. Mirror - 6/4/53

80-236-8
SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....
JUN 9 1953
FBI - LOS ANGELES

SOVIET SCIENCE a Publication of AMERICAN ASSOC.
For ADVANCEMENT
OF SCIENCE

MRS. MAX J. MERRITT
826 So. Hobart, apt 302
DU 8-7835
8-26-53; 10:35am

Security Matter - C

Complainant stated her husband is head of AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE
AGAINST COMMUNISM and yesterday she was in a doctors office who is associated with 8 or
9 other doctors in a common waiting room, 121 San Vincenti, Los Angeles. For this reason
she is unable to state which doctor the magazine in question was sent to. The magazine
is the Scientific Monthly which contains numerous advertizements, the first being for
the SOVIET SCIENCE, a publication of American Assoc. for Advancement of Science and the
contents of the publication was Russian Genetics by THEODOCIUS DOBZHANSKY, Dept of
Zoology, Columbia Univ. She stated there were also about 8 other advertisements, the
last one being Appraisal of Science in the USSR, by CONWAY ZIRKLE, Botanical Lab of the
Univ of Penna. She stated she had taken these advertisements from the magazine and wa
mailing it to the office. She also mentioned Frontier Orgn. is holding a meeting on
So. Mansfield, address unknown, this date and is being sponsored by Beverly Hills
Forum. Subject matter, "Salt of the Earth". Supervisor
[redacted] advised of latter information.

index and file

b7C

James R. Powers

80-736-9
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
AUG 26 1953
FBI - LOS ANGELES
12



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO
FILE NO.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

FD-71
(7-30-45)



COMPLAINT FORM

✓ 100-236-10
100-236-10
100-236-10

Unknown
Subject's Name and Aliases

HATTIE S. MERRITT
~~100-236-10~~
826 S. Hobart Ave., Los Angeles,
Address of Complainant
DUnkirk 8-7835
Telephone Number of Complainant
11:10 A.M. 11/3/53
Date and Time Complaint Received

Address of Subject

Character of Case

DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT:

FACTS OF COMPLAINT: Complainant telephonically advised that she desired to know if the FBI can give aid to an individual who has been removed from his job as a result of the Communists. She stated that her husband is Rabbi MAX J. MERRITT, Los Angeles Director of the American Jewish League Against Communism. She advised that she believed that the FBI should give protection to those individuals who have furnished information against Communism. Mrs. MERRITT was courteously advised that under presidential directives and Bureau policy the FBI did not enter into employment problems regarding individuals. Mrs. MERRITT stated that she understood the FBI's position in this matter but thought the laws should be changed inorder to protect an individuals employment.

ACTION RECOMMENDED BY AGENT:

Route to 100-Zero.

80-236-10
① SEARCHED... INDEXED...
SERIALIZED... FILED...
NOV 3 1953
FBI - LOS ANGELES

Special Agent

b7C

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-180566)

September 14, 1954

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-20554)

SECURITY MATTER - C

ReBulet September 7, 1954

100-20554-X
134-138-18 p. 6-1
134-138-18 p. 9
66-495-1-18
100-22593-3
100-22593-871 p. 5

[REDACTED]

With reference to the information contained in the photostat of [REDACTED] letter [REDACTED] addressed to [REDACTED] advised that under date of [REDACTED] a letter to [REDACTED] Los Angeles Jewish Community Council, 590 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, [REDACTED] an investigator of the Department of Justice who exhibited from his files an illustrated folder of the Westside Jewish Communist Center, 5870 West Olympic Boulevard, Los Angeles. [REDACTED] that this investigator alerted him about information indicating Communist connection on the part of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] also referred information to [REDACTED] of a Communistic nature about [REDACTED] who appears to have the [REDACTED] as does [REDACTED] however, according to [REDACTED]

REGISTERED-AMSD

SMW:bla

cc: 100-20554 (ATLAS)

100-8897

100-22593

80-236 (ATLAS)

80-236-11

[redacted] The bodies that represent local Jewry and allocate funds for the support of these Jewish centers, cannot escape their responsibility. If that responsibility is shirked, though it be with the utmost reluctance, it may become our duty to bring this situation to the knowledge and attention of persons who contributed funds to this organization in the absence of knowledge of the affiliations of the officers, directors and committeemen above mentioned."

During the interview of [redacted] he stated that he understood also that [redacted] the Jewish Centers Association, 590 North Vermont, Los Angeles, [redacted] He stated that several years ago [redacted] during an appearance in the Los Angeles area before the California Un-American Activities Committee, declined to answer the question, "Are you or have you ever been a Communist Party member?"

[redacted] are Security Index subjects of this office, having been identified as Communist Party members, whereas there appears to be no information in the Los Angeles office files indicating Communist Party membership on the part of [redacted] The files of this office also reflect that [redacted] is [redacted]

[redacted] Rabbi MERRITT, he is about 75 years of age, and from 1929 to 1940 was Executive Director of the Hillel Foundation, University of California, Berkeley, California. He has been retired since that time except for one and one-half years between 1942 and 1944, when he filled the pulpit at a synagogue in Shreveport, Louisiana. About this time he suffered injury to his spine in an accident, from which he claims to have recovered. From 1946 to 1948

LA 100-20554

Rabbi MERRITT was Los Angeles Director of the American Council for Judaism. Since 1948 he has been Los Angeles Director in the AJLAC. He stated that he is also engaged in public relations work from his home address. [REDACTED]

b7D

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-13364)

November 7, 1955

SA [redacted] b7C

COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES,
HARBOR DIVISION, LACCP
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SEARCHED.....INDEX.....
SERIALIZED.....
NOV 8 1955
FBI "S"

On November 3, 1955, the writer received a phone call from [redacted] Los Angeles, [redacted] in Los Angeles, who stated he had been contacted by [redacted] "Bellflower Herald-Enterprise," Bellflower, California, who stated he had some information about subversive activity, but did not discuss any details as [redacted] was then enroute to a prior appointment. [redacted] suggested that [redacted] information might be of interest to this Bureau.

[redacted] when contacted by the writer November 3, 1955, stated he had been approached by [redacted] who has phone numbers [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] stating [redacted] a couple of them are Communists and that there are others who are at least Communist sympathizers. [redacted] Long Beach attorney, previously on the above Board, always seems to appear at meetings of the above "Board," when there is some type of subversive activity involved.

[redacted] recalled that several years ago, his newspaper wrote several editorials about [redacted] and his activity.

[redacted] indicated his desire to endeavor to expose the above situation and was, of course, reminded that this Bureau would be in no position to be of assistance in this regard as our files are confidential, at the same time advising him that should he have any information he felt was of interest to this Bureau, to feel free to contact the Los Angeles Office. [redacted] indicated that he expected to refer this matter to Representative CLYDE DOYLE of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

SMW:HEUC
(6)

CC's: 100-26155 (Jewish Centers Assn.) 100-34382 [redacted]
80-235 (American Jewish League vs. Communism)
100-24350 (Religion) 80-232 (Anti-Communist Activities)

SAB, LOS ANGELES (100-41015)

4/25/58

SA [REDACTED]

CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE AMERICAN FREEDOMS (CCPAF)

IS - C

Source	Activity	Received	Agent	Location
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[REDACTED]	4/13/58	4/15/58	Writer	[REDACTED]
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who has furnished reliable info in the past and whose identity should be concealed

Informant furnished a written report concerning a meeting held at the Westside Jewish Community Center on 4/13/58. The main speaker at this meeting was A. L. WIRIN who spoke on "China as I saw it." The report is quoted as follows:

"April 13, 1958, Westside Jewish Community Center.

"Atty. A. L. WIRIN - Chief Council AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION.

"Subject: CHINA AS I SAW IT.

"1000 people present. Donation: \$1.00.

"WIRIN paid tribute to CHARLES MC INTOSH (ph) of ACLU for his efforts in arranging ACLU sponsorship of this WIRIN report. Also to CHARLES NESBITT who permitted ACLU to present WIRIN at the Westside Jewish Community Center in the face of opposition by The American Jewish League Against Communism, who publicly protested the use of the Community Center for this occasion.

cc: [REDACTED]

Read by:

100-4876

100-42713

100-3267 (ACLU)

80-236

(THE AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE AGAINST COMMUNISM)

REC:ARL

(6)

80-236-13

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1958	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

LA 100-41016

"WIRIN told the audience the history of the POWELL sedition case and of Judge GOODWIN's ultimatum to the State Dept. to furnish WIRIN a passport to visit China for the purpose of obtaining defense evidence for the POWELLs - otherwise he would dismiss the case.

"WIRIN received his passport but described efforts of the State Dept. to handicap his visit, although the Government paid the expenses of the trip.

"WIRIN described conditions in China which impressed him favorably: No tipping (bribe); honesty of the poor people (no incentive to have possessions which they have not earned); fighting the 4 evils (flies, mosquitoes, rats & sparrows); lack of corruption in government, as compared to former regime; no starvation among the people; the large number of students now being trained in medicine, etc. There is no capitalism in China due to expropriation, said WIRIN.

"Among the unfavorable aspects of life under the 'democratic dictatorship' which WIRIN noted were lack of civil liberties as evidenced by the fact that citizens must register in order to travel; secret trials of the counter-revolutionaries.

"WIRIN said he entered China with a certain degree of skepticism as to finding proof of use of germ warfare by this government in the Korean war, but after hearing evidence his skepticism has vanished. He said he could not vouch for the credibility of the witnesses he interviewed (scientists, and others) but that that question could be decided at the time of the trial.

"There is no bill of rights to protect political opponents of the Communist party in China, but controversy and criticism are encouraged among the people who support or accept the government, WIRIN told the audience. He said that 'rightists' are regarded as 'enemies of the people'; this included anyone who challenges the basic principles of Socialism.

" 'Foreigners must secure a police permit to travel from one city to another for even one day and the Chinese must obtain a permit for any trip of more than 3 days,' said WIRIN.

LA 100-41016

"He castigated Secretary DULLES for his insulting attitude towards the People's China. The Chinese government does not consider Mr. DULLES a gentleman, WIRIN reported.

"EASON MONROE asked the audience for contributions towards ACLU's campaign to raise \$75,000 to finance its present budget (local and national). He referred to members of the American Jewish League Against Communism as 'McCarthyites.'

"During the question and answer period WIRIN gave the audience further information concerning the People's Republic of China. He stated that there is no starvation in China, altho there are no luxuries for the average person. Cholera and bubonic plague have been wiped out, he said. Government officials go to the villages for certain periods to do physical work with the peasants 'to keep the common touch', WIRIN said. Also soldiers participate in raising crops and there is complete equality of men and women.

"As to religion, WIRIN said there is no suppression or persecution of religious groups. He could not obtain figures on the number of counter-revolutionaries who have been imprisoned or executed, he said.

"WIRIN summed up his experiences, impressions, and opinions by saying that the U. S. Government must change its policy towards the People's Republic of China, which contains one quarter of the world's population, and withdraw its support of the corrupt regime of CHIANG KAI-SHEK in Formosa."

ACTION:

Informant was thoroughly interviewed regarding this report and could furnish no additional information.

The following are being indexed:

[redacted] and Westside Jewish Community Center.

All necessary action in connection with this memo has been taken by the writer.

TOWN MEETING

One Way to See the Stars

Town Meeting: If the City Council can take time out from arguing about the Dodgers, greeting pretty girls and posing for fatuous pictures I wish they'd do something about the chuck holes in our streets.

A star-studded Hollywood Boulevard is okay but we beside the boulevard who thinks all the streets are smooth. He will see stars all right when his head bangs the car top after he hits a chuck hole.

---E VAUGHAN

OPPOSES LECTURE

Town Meeting: Please make public the following letter which I have sent to the Westside Jewish Community Center, 5870 West Olympic Blvd.

The American Jewish League Against Communism, Los Angeles Chapter, respectfully requests you to cancel the announced talk this Sunday evening by A. L. Wirin on "China as I Saw It." The League sincerely believes you do a disservice to Los Angeles Jewry by allowing Mr. Wirin to speak under your auspices at this time.

Mr. Wirin is defending the Powells against charges of sedition brought by the United States government. It was to corroborate the Powells' assertion that America used germ warfare in Korea that Mr. Wirin went to Red China to get affidavits from communists.

The American Jewish League Against Communism does not question Mr. Wirin's right to defend his clients; neither does it question Mr. Wirin's right to be heard. But there are many other forums in this city, and the League emphatically does question the use of a Jewish Community Center for such a purpose. If Mr. Wirin were defending some Fascists or Nazis, and had gone abroad to secure affidavits from their co-believers, would the Westside Jewish

Community Center have opened its forum to him? And, by the same token, how would the Westside Jewish Center feel if an attorney for the Klan or the Silver Shirts were to appear in Los Angeles under the auspices of a Catholic or Protestant center?

We think we know the answer. And we believe that all good Americans, including the overwhelming majority of Los Angeles Jewry, feel the same way about your permitting Mr. Wirin to use the Center for his talk.

We respectfully renew our petition that you cancel the proposed meeting.—M. J. MERRITT, Exec. Director.

EDITORIALS CITIZEN NEWS

HOLLYWOOD, SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1958

80-236-11

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FBI LOS ANGELES

TRUE COPY

Los Angeles Chapter

AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE

AGAINST COMMUNISM, INC.

Telephone
DU 8-7835

826 S. Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles 5, Cal.

Rabbi M. J. Merritt
Executive Director

June 1st. '56

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Office of the Director
Washington 25 D.C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

It is with regret that we learn that your schedule is so uncertain when you come to California that you cannot plan definitely to be present at our Tenth Anniversary Dinner, set now for Monday evening, June 30th. at the Statler Hotel

However my Board wishes me to inform you that in recognition of your splendid service for God and Country, the Los Angeles Chapter will be privileged to honor you with an appropriate award in absentia.

This will be an all too inadequate acknowledgement not only for the shield of security that you have set up against the enemies of our country but for the equally important service, through "Masters of Deceit", of alerting our people to the formidable danger of internal infiltration.

We trust that you will designate a local friend or a member of the local staff of the FBI, to accept the award. And in the event that you are in this area at the time of our dinner, we shall be most happy to have you accept in person.

Yours sincerely

/s/ M. J Merritt

80-236-15

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 1 1956	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

"Unless We Are Opposed to All Dictatorship We Are Opposed to None"

June 6, 1958

Rabbi Max J. Merritt
Executive Director
American Jewish League
Against Communism, Inc.
826 South Hobart Boulevard
Los Angeles 5, California

Dear Rabbi Merritt:

I want to express my deep appreciation for your cordial letter of June 1, 1958, advising that the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Jewish League Against Communism, Inc., desires to honor me with an appropriate award in absentia at its Tenth Anniversary Dinner on June 30, 1958, at the Statler Hotel in Los Angeles.

Your consideration in this regard is indeed heartening, and I am pleased to accept your kind offer. Special Agent in Charge Donald Kenneth Brown of our Los Angeles Office will contact you in the near future regarding further arrangements for this occasion, and he will, if at all possible, accept this award on my behalf. May I extend my very best wishes for a most successful Dinner.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

2 - Los Angeles - Enclosures (2)

ATTENTION SAC: You should immediately contact Rabbi Merritt, and if at all possible, you should indicate that you will personally appear at this Dinner and accept this organization's award on my behalf. Should you be unable to personally appear, you should designate the Assistant Agent in Charge for this occasion.

80-236-16
P
6

Director, FBI

6/17/58

3 SAC, Los Angeles

AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE
AGAINST COMMUNISM, INC.

80-2364
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ReBulet 6/6/58, addressed to Rabbi Max J. Merritt,
Executive Director of the American Jewish League Against
Communism, Inc.

I have been in contact with Rabbi Merritt and advised
him that I would personally appear and accept his organiza-
tion's award on behalf of the Director.

Rabbi Merritt has now advised me that it has been
necessary to delay the dinner until the latter part of July,
1958. He will furnish the exact date and I will promptly
inform the Bureau.

2 - Bureau (Air Mail)
1 - Los Angeles

DKB:AB
(3)

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80-236-17

Los Angeles Chapter •

AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE AGAINST COMMUNISM, INC.

Telephone
DU 8-7835

826 S. Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles 5, Cal.

Rabbi M. J. Merritt
Executive Director

July 23rd. '58

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Alfred Kohlberg, Hon. Chairman
and Treasurer

George Sokolsky, Chairman
Rabbi Benj. Schultz,
Nat. Executive Director

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Morrie Ryskind, Chairman
Paul Miller, Vice-Chairman
Henry Bartman, Treasurer
Bert J. Abraham
Arthur Brash
Norman Jacoby
Arthur T. Stollmack
Al Weinberg
Max J. Merritt

Mr. Donald Kenneth Brown
Los Angeles Office of the FBI.
1340 W. 3th. St.
Los Angeles California

My dear Mr. Brown:

A change in the plans of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Jewish League Against Communism for the observance of its Tenth Anniversary Dinner has been made necessary. When I wrote to Mr. J. Edgar Hoover we had planned to hold our anniversary dinner in June.

Our Board has now decided to hold our dinner on Constitution Day, Sept. 17th. as has been our custom in the past. The dinner will be given at the Hotel Statler Wednesday evening Sept. 17th. at 7 P.M.

The others to be honored with awards together with Mr. J. Edgar Hoover are Adolphe Menjou and Mrs. Paul Miller. It is the first time that our local chapter has selected a woman to be so honored but the choice of Mrs. Paul Miller has met with an enthusiastic response.

We are writing you at this early date in order that this date may be reserved for us. And we extend a most cordial invitation to Mrs. Brown to be our guest also on that evening.

With very kindest regards I remain

Yours sincerely

M. J. Merritt
Executive Director

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DATE 06-15-2005 BY 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/bis

80-236-18

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUL 25 1958	

"Unless We Are Opposed to All Dictatorship We Are Opposed to None"

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Los Angeles (80-236)

DATE: 7-23-58

FROM : SA [REDACTED] b7C

SUBJECT: AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE AGAINST COMMUNISM (AJLAC)
Info. Concerningb2 [REDACTED] orally advised the
writer on this date as follows:b7C Rabbi MAX MERRITT, Exec. Director of the AJLAC
b7D on the West Coast, recently wrote to Director J. EDGAR
HOOVER and requested permission to designate Mr. HOOVER
to be the recipient of an award to be presented by the
AJLAC at its next convention to be held in Los Angeles
sometime in Sept. 1958.

Director HOOVER reportedly advised Rabbi MERRITT
that he would be glad to accept the award in person if
possible and if he could not attend, SAC D. K. BROWN would
accept on his behalf.

The date of the AJLAC has now been set for
9-17-58 at the Statler Hotel, Los Angeles, and the other
recipient of an award by the AJLAC will be ADOEPHE MENJOU.

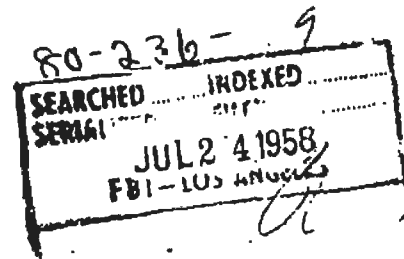
b2 [REDACTED]
b7C [REDACTED]
b7D [REDACTED]
The above information is to be sent to SAC BROWN
by Rabbi MERRITT in the near future.

b2

b7D

(2)
cc [REDACTED]

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 06-15-2005 BY 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/bls



Director, FBI

7/28/58

SAC, Los Angeles (80-236)

H AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE
AGAINST COMMUNISM, INC.

Remylet 6/17/58.

I have been advised by Rabbi MAX J. MERRITT that the League's dinner will now be held on Constitution Day, September 17, 1958, at the Statler Hotel in Los Angeles, at 7:00 P.M.

[redacted] to be honored with awards are ADOLPHE MENJOU [redacted]
[redacted]

In accordance with prior Bureau instructions, I have advised Rabbi MERRITT that I will personally appear and accept this award on behalf of the Director. Perhaps the Bureau will want to furnish me with a statement by the Director to be read on this occasion.

2 - Bureau - Air Mail
1 - Los Angeles
DKB:AB
(3)

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DATE 06-15-2005 BY 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/bls

80-236-20

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Los Angeles (80-236)

DATE: August 6, 1958

✓ FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE
AGAINST COMMUNISM, INC.

Reurlets 6-17-58 and 7-28-58.

In connection with your appearance at the dinner sponsored by captioned organization on 9-17-58 at the Statler Hotel in Los Angeles to accept an award on behalf of the Director, an appropriate statement is being prepared and will be forwarded to you in the near future.

80-236 -
[]
[]
[]

1340 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles 17, California
August 7, 1958

Rabbi Max J. Merritt
Executive Director
American Jewish League
Against Communism, Inc.
826 South Hobart Boulevard
Los Angeles 5, California

Dear Rabbi Merritt:

Confirming our telephone
conversation, I will be able on
September 17, 1958, to accept the
award to be made by your organization
on behalf of Mr. Hoover.

Sincerely,



D. K. Brown
Special Agent in Charge

Los Angeles Chapter

AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE AGAINST COMMUNISM, INC.

Telephone
DU 8-7835

826 S. Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles 5, Cal.

Rabbi M. J. Merritt
Executive Director

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Alfred Kohlberg, Hon. Chairman
and Treasurer

George Sokolsky, Chairman
Rabbi Benj. Schultz,
Nat. Executive Director

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Arthur Brash
Norman Jacoby
Arthur T. Stollmack
Al Weinberg
Max J. Merritt

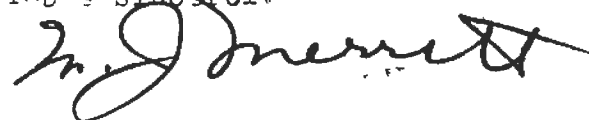
August 14th. '58

Mr. Donald Kenneth Brown
Los Angeles Office of the FBI
1540 W. 6th St.
Los Angeles California

My dear Mr. Brown:

I am happy to announce to the members of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Jewish League Against Communism that you will be with us to accept the award to be presented to Mr. J. Edgar Hoover. I would appreciate your sending me a half dozen pressies of Mr. Hoover for newspaper use.

Yours sincerely



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DATE 06-15-2005 BY 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/bis

80-236-23
SEARCHED INDEXED
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AUG 15 1958
FBI - LOS ANGELES

"Unless We Are Opposed to All Dictatorship We Are Opposed to None"

(Not printed at Government expense)



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 85th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Are Jews Sympathetic to Communism?

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. DONALD L. JACKSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1957

Mr. JACKSON. Mr Speaker, the attached article, *Are Jews Sympathetic to Communism?* written by Rabbi M. J. Merritt, executive director of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Jewish League Against Communism, Inc., is submitted by request for insertion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

ARE JEWS SYMPATHETIC TO COMMUNISM?

With monotonous frequency I am asked, "Why are so many men and women born in the Jewish fold active in and sympathetic to the Communist cause?" The question stems from the parade of witnesses called before the committees investigating infiltration in the Government, education, entertainment, communications, labor—in brief in almost every phase of American life and activity. The public has taken note of the published names of a preponderant number of these witnesses—names that plainly suggest a Jewish origin. That has led to the question posed.

It is a natural question and deserves an answer. But before the question can be answered intelligently it will not be going far afield to inquire into the causes that made for the rise of communism to strength and influence and the causes, too, that have contributed to its decline.

Communism stood at the peak of its popularity in the United States and counted its most numerous membership and generous financial support in the years that immediately followed the economic breakdown of 1929 and the simultaneous rise of Hitler to power. In the years of misery, privation, hopelessness, and distress that bore down so heavily on the lives of millions in America, communism seemed to stand out like a beacon in a world growing progressively darker. Thousands succumbed to the Communist propaganda that the cycle of boom and bust was implicit in the system of free enterprise to which the Western world was wedded and the Communist indictment that capitalism was bankrupt. Millions were ready to listen to the advocates of a system that brashly offered relief from unimaginable distress and proclaimed that it had the key to economic stability.

Communism made the most of that passionate, almost agonized yearning for relief. I remember well the eagerness with which people listened to the Communist claim that in the collective farm the problem of the tiller of the soil was solved and that in a controlled economy and the state-owned industry, communism had abolished the

haunting dread of unemployment. Thousands of sensitive souls and bewildered visionaries were completely taken in and became members of the Communist Party. Among these thousands were a considerable number of men and women born in the Jewish fold.

Rarely in modern times have so many men and women been convinced that greed and selfishness were the villains that were blocking the path of human progress and that the greatest need of our day was a new order that would exorcise these evils from which society was suffering. They believed that a new order releasing human energies, would purge society of its ills and bring civilization to full flower. Communism claimed that it had the plan and held the key to that golden future in the classless society that was a realization of the dream of brotherhood. Thousands of starry-eyed sentimentalists flocked to the party and gave it moral and financial support. A liberal number of men and women born in the Jewish fold were among them.

This, too, was the period when Hitler and nazism had come to power and imposed their will on the German people, reduced to poverty and privation by allied intransigence and uncontrolled inflation. While a shocked and nerveless world looked on Hitler proceeded to demonstrate that the doom he had publicly proclaimed for liberals as well as Jews was not an empty threat. The fury of the storm troopers was unleashed. The shrieks of the victims of Hitler's savage and inhuman cruelties rose to Heaven as Hitler proceeded methodically to carry out his threat to exterminate Jews wherever he gained control. A shocked world spent its indignation in feeble protests that the Nazis studiously ignored.

Communism was the only disciplined force in the world that stood up to Hitler and declared open war to the end on nazism. Thousands of liberals and Jews in the Western World found that challenge and resistance good, became members of the party and gave it moral and financial support. And it would have been strange indeed if with the spectre of annihilation confronting them Jews had not joined the party in large numbers and put themselves wholeheartedly at its service.

These are the reasons that in a few short years brought communism out of the shadows into the sunlight, swelled its ranks to 100,000 members, with approximately 2 million fellow travelers willing to do the party's bidding and won for it an unnumbered host of sympathizers in the United States.

As circumstances brought communism in the United States to prestige and power, so circumstances have played an important part in depleting its membership and reducing its influence. First came the Hitler-Stalin pact that sparked the Second World War and exposed the sham of the Communist vow that it was committed to fight Hitler and nazism to the death. Thousands of liberals and Jews shocked at this change

of line and disillusioned by this cynical alliance deserted the party, resentful at the deceit that had been practiced on them.

Then came the revelation that the paradise of the proletariat was a fraud. A ruthless dictator decreed the death of more than 6 million peasants who resisted the policy of collective farms and withheld their harvest quotas from the Communist masters. The urban toiler began to resent the gulf that stretched between the luxurious life of the ruling clique and the sweating masses. And the factory worker found himself denied every right that workers had fought and suffered to win in the Western World. Thousands who had flocked to the standards of communism in the delusion that communism had forged the key to a proletarian paradise could not stomach this revelation and defected. And along the defectors was the standard quota of men and women born in the Jewish fold.

There are always a goodly number of amateurs who rush to associate themselves with the new, novel and ballyhooed movement, persuaded that it represents the wave of the future. But amateurs learn by experience. When it became generally known that communism was not a panacea for social and economic ills, that its advocacy of peace was blatantly insincere, that to gain its evil ends, it not merely condoned but counseled deceit, cruelty, the breaking of every solemn covenant and contempt for every ethical principle and that it was nothing more or less than a criminal conspiracy directed to world conquest, the amateurs detected by the thousand, among them the standard number of Jews.

Today, according to the latest listing of the FBI, the roster of devoted, dedicated hard-core Communists in the United States has shrunk to a little more than 18,000 members. And if the tabulation of the FBI is correct, that for every dedicated and devoted Communist there are 10 fellow-travelers ready to do the Communist bidding, there are some 180,000 men and women in the United States at the beck and call of communism. In the ranks of the loyal, devoted, and dedicated Communists are to be found the usual quota of individuals, who are failures and frustrated. And of these, too, there are number of men and women born in the Jewish fold.

My point has been to show why Jews were drawn in numbers into communism and why in numbers they defected. And in the greatly diminished number of hard-core and dedicated Communists who remain, there is a relatively modest quota of men and women born in the Jewish fold. There are two things characteristic of Jews. In whatever field they enter they are intense, articulate, and conspicuous. To the ill-concealed disquiet of the rank and file of their coreligionists, these hard-core Communists, born in the Jewish fold, are not only intense, articulate, conspicuous but have demonstrated a talent for leadership that makes them stand out like a sore thumb. They have given the completely erroneous

impression that a major number of Jews are Communists. As a matter of fact, these hard-core Communists, born in the Jewish fold, and their fellow-traveling reserves, represent less than one-half of 1 percent of the 6 million Jews of America. The unswerving loyalty of the vast and overwhelming majority of American Jews and their steadfast devotion to the American way of life is attested by their sacrifices in every

war in which the United States has been engaged and the significant contributions they have made to a great and prosperous America.

It is a matter of record that followers of other faiths have proven equally susceptible to the Communist appeal and permitted themselves to be used as tools, dupes, and innocent collaborators of Communist projects and objectives. We have no better example of the readiness of men and women, irrespective of faith, to support causes favorable to communism than the present desperate effort of American Communists to defeat the Internal Security Act of 1950. This is one of the most effective laws passed by the Congress to cripple the Communist conspiracy in the United States. This law makes it mandatory for the Communist Party in the United States and pro-Communist organizations, too, to register and file annual reports with the Attorney General of all Communist-action groups and all Communist-front organizations.

Communism senses in this law a threat to its very existence. It is marshalling every resource available to defeat it. It is appealing as never before to the ultra liberals, the starry eyed, and the dupes to join it in the effort to void this law. On September 14, 1955, there was filed with the Supreme Court of the United States a brief *amici curiae*, signed by 360 individuals requesting the Supreme Court to void the Internal Security Act of 1950. This brief was signed by men and women representative of the clergy, education, medicine, politics, the arts, social service, and business. The great majority of the signers could not by any stretch of the imagination be called Communists or fellow travelers.

As in almost every instance when petitions favorable to communism have been drawn up, signed, and presented to the powers that be, the initiators are Communists and the rank and file of the signers are innocent collaborators. An analysis of the signers of this brief will show that the number of Jewish signers is negligible compared to the signers of other faiths. Ninety-four of the signers of the brief are men of the cloth. Six are rabbis and 88 are representatives of the several branches of protestantism—Unitarians, Methodists, Episcopalians, etc. Practically the same ratio applies to the doctors, educators, social workers, and the arts represented among the signers. It is clear that if non-Communist but poorly informed Jews have been led to support Communist projects and objectives the same is true to an equal or even greater extent of non-Jews.

I have already given the general reasons that, bound up with historic circumstances, brought non-Jews and Jews in appreciable numbers into communism. But with extraordinary cleverness communism found Jews susceptible to special appeals. If there is one dominant passion that has stamped itself on Jewish life and tradition, it has been the passion for social justice. From the days of the prophets Jews have been the pathbreakers in the cause of social justice, and they have never abated the ardent dream of the coming of a time when the practice of social justice would banish the ills of

poverty and privilege and social and economic injustice from the world.

Here communism was ready with a honeyed appeal. "Look," said the Communist propagandist, "look about you in the world. Has your age-old dream of social justice been realized? Has economic and social justice been banished? Two thousand years have passed, and these ills are still rampant in the world. When communism has come

to power and is dominant in the world, it is fundamental to our policy to put your dream of social justice into practice." Jews fell for that appeal, and these devoted Communists and willing fellow travelers born in the Jewish fold refuse to admit the patent fraud manifest in the gulf that stretches between the privileged few at the top and at the bottom the toiler chained to his job and the tortured millions condemned to the living death of the concentration camps.

Again, no single group has for so many centuries been made the victim of persecution and discrimination as the Jew. For centuries the Jews of Eastern and Central Europe were treated as outcasts and pariahs, and even when Jews in the Western World were privileged to bask in the sunshine of equal political and economic opportunity they were still made to feel the smart of social and personal discrimination.

Communism made a clever and moving appeal to Jews. It set itself up as the sworn foe of every type of discrimination in the world—racial, social, color, and religious discrimination. Jews fell for that pose, too, and there are still many who accept the Communist ideology and are ranked among the fellow travelers who refuse to admit the patent fraud of discrimination practiced against the remnants of the Russian bourgeoisie, discrimination practiced against all who refuse to conform to the Communist mold.

Again the specious claims that communism made impressed and won a following among Jews. Communists have consistently claimed that they abolished the pale of settlement, that hated ghetto in which millions of Jews were crowded and where they were subjected to every hampering and humiliating restriction, a plight that stirred the sympathy of their coreligionists throughout the world, to say nothing of the burden it put on their generosity. Communism made the specious claim that it made all these restrictions null and void, that it put a summary end to the pogroms of the Black Hundreds and that it put the Jew on a par with every other Russian citizen. The truth is that it was the Duma of the Kerensky regime, the democratic regime destroyed by Lenin, that issued the decrees liberating the Jews of Russia. And there is positive evidence that far from rooting out prejudice and ill treatment of Jews as communism has boasted, communism still tolerates anti-Semitism in Soviet Russia and the satellites.

In the face of the documented evidence proving the fraud in the special appeal communism has made to Jews, it becomes difficult to explain the loyalty and devotion of those men and women born in the Jewish fold who still remain faithful to the Communist cause. Is it to be explained by that characteristic weakness in human nature that when individuals have once been persuaded to give themselves unreservedly to a cause and to make that cause part and parcel of their lives, that even when they have been deceived, they find that it is impossible to admit that they have been fooled?

By a vast majority American Jews have refused to be enmeshed in the spider web of communism. By a vast majority American

Jews are familiar enough with the records to know that communism has broken every solemn agreement it has made with the free world and that it is basically untrustworthy. By a vast majority American Jews see the gulf that stretches between Communist promise and practice. By a vast majority American Jews condemn a cause that stands for slavery and atheism.

The American Jewish League Against Communism is the articulate voice of that impressive majority. The league insists that Jews in communism represent the very antithesis of what the Jewish people have stood for from the beginning of recorded history. For it may not be forgotten that religion as the world knows and values it, constitutes the Jew's supreme gift to humanity. As interpreters of God and goodness, from Moses to Jesus, we have been accorded a significant place in history as contributors to the world's spiritual wealth. The league holds that Jews would be recreant to what is best in their past if they did not take their place in the ranks of those determined that the ideals of truth, justice, mercy, faith, and freedom shall not be supplanted by communism's cynical concepts of falsehood, cruelty, injustice, double-dealing, and slavery.

The league is the articulate voice of the overwhelming majority of coreligionists who abominate these renegades as the rankest ingrates. For the Jews of America are wholeheartedly appreciative that here as in no other land or time or place do they share with fellow citizens the rich blessings of the fairest, happiest, most rewarding land under the sun.

They are appreciative of the fact that America has been for us a house through whose open windows has poured the sunshine of opportunity that only the free spirit can create—sunshine that some twisted Jewish individuals would exchange for the murky shadows of the police state. Here the human dignity that has added a quality of grace to rich achievement, some fuxyminded creatures in our midst would barter away for the deadening slavery of a robot regime. Here the full well-rounded serviceable life that democracy has made possible for our people, deluded and misguided creatures born in our fold would have us change for the lock-step existence that marks the life behind the Iron Curtain.

Relatively few as these renegades are the league does not ignore them. The league has taken the lead in condemning, repudiating and rooting them out whenever and wherever they are found. We believe that it is our duty to speak out frankly in detestation of these creatures at a time when not only for our country but for the free world there can be only one way for Americans. We believe that it is necessary that we publicly declare that Jews who speak and work for an atheistic and conspiratorial foreign power are enemies not only of their own people but also of their country.

And by tradition we are the bearers, too, of a heartening message to the free world. We are a people old in experience. We have been privileged to watch the waxing and the waning of many a formidable earthly power. Again and again we have witnessed power-mad dictatorships go down to destruction because of defiance of the eternal principles of right. And now that the free world stands at a fateful crossroads on the highway of history, we register the conviction that the cherished values and ideals of which our prophets were the champions will prevail against the powers of darkness.

1340 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles 17, California
August 15, 1958

Mr. Max J. Merritt
American Jewish League
Against Communism, Inc.
826 South Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles 5, California

Dear Rabbi Merritt:

I have your letter of August
14, 1958, and have requested the
glossy pictures of Mr. Hoover.

As soon as they are received,
same will be forwarded to you.

Sincerely,


D. K. Brown
Special Agent in Charge

DKB:AB
(2)

Director, FBI

8/15/58

SAC, Los Angeles

AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE AGAINST
COMMUNISM
Los Angeles Chapter
ACCEPTANCE OF AWARD FOR DIRECTOR

Reference is made to previous correspondence concerning the award which captioned organization is presenting to the Director on September 17, 1958, through the SAC in Los Angeles.

Rabbi Max J. Merritt, who is handling the correspondence, has just requested six glossy pictures of Mr. Hoover to be used for publicity purposes.

Will the Bureau kindly forward these to the Los Angeles Office at the earliest possible time.

2 - Bureau (Air Mail)
1 - Los Angeles
DKB:AB
(3)

80-2-1-65

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Los Angeles

DATE: August 19, 1958

MA
FROM : Director, FBISUBJECT: AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE AGAINST COMMUNISM
LOS ANGELES CHAPTER ACCEPTANCE OF AWARD
FOR DIRECTOR

Reurlet 8-15-58. There are enclosed six glossy photographs which you may make available to Rabbi Max J. Merritt in line with his request for such photographs for publicity purposes.

Enclosures (6)

82-236-26
-u- A-
12
ML

1340 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles 17, California
August 22, 1958

Mr. Max J. Merritt
American Jewish League
Against Communism, Inc.
826 South Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles 5, California

Dear Rabbi Merritt:

In accordance with the request contained in your letter of August 14, 1958, I am enclosing herewith six glossy pictures of Mr. Hoover for your use in connection with award presentation on September 17, 1958.

Sincerely,

Encs. 6 D. K. Brown
Special Agent in Charge

amb

[REDACTED]
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

b7C

September 11, 1958

Mr. Donald K. Brown
F. B. I.
U. S. Dept. of Justice
1340 W. 6th St.
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Brown:

On behalf of the AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE AGAINST
COMMUNISM, may I say that we will be honored to
have you be present at our dinner at the Sierra
Room of the Statler Hotel next Wednesday night,
September 17, at 7:00 P.M. to accept the award
for Mr. J. Edgar Hoover.

You will be seated at the Speakers' Table and
we will appreciate it if you will make a brief
response on behalf of Mr. Hoover.

[REDACTED] will be seated with [REDACTED]

Thank you so much, and we are looking forward to
seeing you [REDACTED] next Wednesday.

b7C

Sincerely yours,

Enc.

A.J.L.A.C. [REDACTED]

Previous correspondence from
Rabbi MAX J. MERRITT

100-224-28
SEP 11 1958
[Handwritten initials and signature]

1340 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles 17, California
September 15, 1958

[Redacted]
 Beverly Hills, California

b7C

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your letter
of September 11, 1958.

As I previously indicated,
I will be with you on the evening of
September 17, 1958.

Sincerely,

DRL:MS

(7)
D. L. Brown
Special Agent in Charge

Re: American Jewish League
Against Communism, Inc.
Robert Ross C. Griffith,
Executive Director.

805

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Los Angeles (80-236)

DATE: August 14, 1958

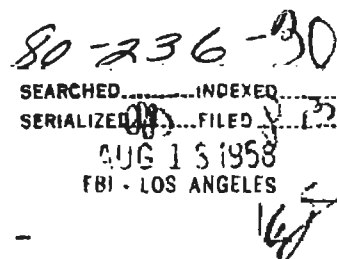
FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE
AGAINST COMMUNISM, INC.

Remylet 8-6-58.

There is enclosed an appropriate statement which you may use in connection with your acceptance of an award on my behalf at the dinner sponsored by captioned organization on 9-17-58 at the Statler Hotel in Los Angeles.

Enclosure



b2
b7C
b7D

Re: Freedom Speech League
Against Communism, Inc.

The affair was attended by approximately 180 people, including several prominent law enforcement officers from this area. Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Harold Rydberg. In making the award, he spoke at some length concerning your early warning of the danger of communism, your continued fight through the years to curb this menace and your remarkable leadership as Director of the FBI. He and others who were called upon for remarks repeatedly referred to you as America's most outstanding citizen.

In accepting the award, I expressed your regrets for not being able to be present personally and read to the group the statement which you had previously furnished me. It was very well received and the applause was vigorous and sustaining for several minutes. I believe that your acceptance of the award was a source of great encouragement to this organization which appears to be truly dedicated to its stated cause.

I am enclosing under separate cover the silver plate and medal which were presented by the Commission.

20-231

I personally appreciate the honor of
being permitted to represent you on this occasion.

Sincerely,



D. K. Brown
Special Agent in Charge

September 23, 1938

PERSONAL

Mr. Adolph Weigert
722 North Eastern Avenue
Berkeley, Cal., Oakland

Dear Adolph:

Just a note to offer my sincere congratulations upon your receipt of the award for your fight against communism which was presented to you by the American Jewish League Against Communism, Inc., on September 17.

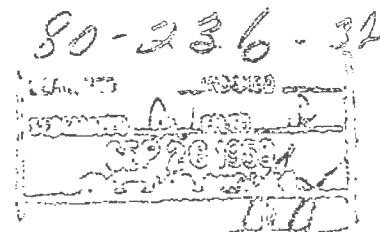
There is indeed a fitting tribute to your continued activities opposing this serious menace and strengthening the ideals of the American way of life. I am glad to see your meritorious efforts rewarded in this manner. The honor is richly deserved.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely,

J. Edgar Hoover

Los Angeles
Reurlet 9-18-38.



September 25, 1958

PERSONAL

[Redacted]

Los Angeles 34, California

b7C

Dear [Redacted]

I wanted to send you this note of sincere congratulations upon your receipt of the award from the American Jewish League Against Communism, Inc., for your courageous fight against communism.

This is indeed a tribute to the valuable service you have rendered to your country, and all of your friends in the FBI are pleased to see you receive this honor and recognition.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Los Angeles
Reurlet 9/18/58

80-236-30

W. H.
Jc

F B I

Date: ~~September 21~~, 1958

Transmit the following in

(Type in plain text or code)

Via **Airtel**

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

To: SAC, Los Angeles (80-236)

✓ From: Director, FBI

**AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE
AGAINST COMMUNISM, INC.**

Remylet 8/14/58.

Subairtel your recommendations for any letters necessary following presentation of an award which you accepted on my behalf at a dinner sponsored by captioned organization at the Statler Hotel on September 17, 1958.

80-236-34
SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....
SEP 24 1958
FBI - LOS ANGELES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 06-15-2005 BY 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/bls

Sent Via

M Per

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES

DATE: 3/27/62

FROM : SUPERVISOR [REDACTED]

b7C

SUBJECT: MRS. MAX MERRITT
INFORMATION CONCERNING

At 2:04 p.m., today, Mrs. MERRITT, 826 South Hobart Boulevard, Apartment 302, telephone DUNKIRK 8-7835, telephonically advised as follows:

Her husband, Rabbi MAX MERRITT, age 83, is the Executive Director of the American Jewish League vs. Communism in Los Angeles. Recently, several personal checks, number unknown by her, made out to the American Jewish League vs. Communism, have been discovered missing from her home. Her husband suspects that she might have taken the checks and Mrs. MERRITT vehemently denied this. She stated this matter had been discussed with Detectives FNU [REDACTED] and FNU [REDACTED] Los Angeles Police Department, and the missing checks totaled \$340. Mrs. MERRITT stated "I believe this is the work of the Communists."

Mrs. MERRITT stated her husband thinks she is senile and she was obviously emotionally upset. She stated she would like the FBI to conduct an investigation to determine who took the checks and she volunteered to take a "truth serum." She further stated "if you doubt my honesty, please talk to [REDACTED]"

FBI jurisdiction was explained to Mrs. MERRITT and she stated she understood. She concluded by stating she desired someone to conduct appropriate investigation to convince her husband she has not "lost her mind." She added she is now 76 years of age.

ces:ba
(2) *ba*

62-1064-176

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1/24-7

80-236-37
SEARCHED *11* INDEXED *11*
SERIALIZED *11*
2 MAR 27 1962
FBI - LOS ANGELES
JS

Director, FBI

9/25/58

B SAC, Los Angeles (80-236)

AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE
AGAINST COMMUNISM, INC.

ReBuairtel 9/23/58.

Since signed message from the Director to this organization was delivered, after being read, to Rabbi MAX J. MERRITT, it was believed this constituted sufficient expression of thanks.

Accordingly, no letters are recommended.

2 - Bureau (Air Mail)
1 - Los Angeles
DKB:AB
(3)

June 12, 1961

PLAIN TEXT

TELEGRAM

URGENT

RABBI MAX JOHN MERRITT
KOWLOON
6124 WEST PICO BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

REGRET I AM UNABLE TO BE PRESENT AT YOUR PATRIOTIC TESTI-
MONIAL DINNER. I KNOW YOUR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AND
INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS IN PUBLIC INTEREST WILL LONG BE
REMEMBERED BY THOSE PRIVILEGED TO KNOW YOU. MAY YOUR
FUTURE ENDEAVORS BE REWARDED WITH EVERY MEASURE OF
SUCCESS.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 - Los Angeles

Bring file two

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 13 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

Best Copy Available

URGENT 2-8-63

6-45 PM

TO SAC LOS ANGELES

FROM DIRECTOR 1-P

RABBI MAX J. HERRITT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

AGAINST COMMUNISM, THIRTY-NINE FIFTY-NINE WEST

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, RESEARCH /CONFIDENTIAL

BUDED FEBRUARY ELEVEN, NINETEEN SIXTY-THREE.

CAPTIONED INDIVIDUAL WROTE ASKING ME TO WRITE

OF HERBERT HOOVER WHO WILL BE HONORED FEBRUARY THIRTEEN

ORGANIZATION AT FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER.

GOLDWATER WILL BE GUEST SPEAKER. OTHER MEMBERS OF

FAIL TO REACH BUREAU BY NOON FEBRUARY ELEVEN ANY INFORMATION

RE REPUTATION OF CORRESPONDENT AND ORGANIZATION. CONFIDENTIAL

SHOULD NOT BECOME AWARE OF BUREAU INTEREST AND ONLY

SOURCES SHOULD BE CONTACTED.

END AND ACK PLS

SSSSSSSSSS

3-46 PM OK FBI LA KH

T

80-2-264-11

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 11 1963	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

CLE

Birth Date

Birth Date

Spelling

References

Main Subversive Case Files Only

Subversive References Only

Main Criminal Case Files Only

Criminal References Only

Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)

Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)

File & Serial Number

Remarks

File & Serial Number

Merritt, Mar J. (Rabbi)

62-3259-117

62-3259-106

100-15732-1140

62-3259-62

63-3029-5

FW 8-15-49 p.1

Source of info:

80-236-16

100-13364-2504

100-15732-1202

62-3259-77

-78

-121

100-0-35963

100-24642-236

100-24350-209

Requested by

Squad

Balance

Searched by

Consolidated by

Reviewed by

TO: CHIEF CLERK
Subject

Date

Aliases

Address

Birth Date

Birthplace

Race

Sex

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Exact Spelling

☐ All References

☐ Main Subversive Case Files Only

☐ Subversive References Only

☐ Main Criminal Case Files Only

☐ Criminal References Only

☐ Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)

☐ Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)

☐ Restrict to Locality of

File & Serial Number

Remarks

File & Serial Number

Remarks

[Redacted]

b2

b7D

Max Merritt (Rohde)

100-59001-699

100-53044-158

100-22873-60

62-3418-116

100-59001-969

100-6730-2-1

121-336-19 p. 1

80-236

W. J. Merritt

45-0-91

80-236-14

100-15732-1048

[Redacted]

b2

b7D

Request

Squad

Extension

File No.

Searched by

EE

(date)

Consolidated by

(date)

Reviewed by

(date)

File Review Symbols

I - Identical

? - Not identifiable

NI - Not identical

U - Unavailable reference

TO: CHIEF CLERK
Subject _____ Date _____

Aliases _____

Address _____ Birth Date _____ Birthplace _____ Race _____ Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female

- ☐ Exact Spelling
☐ All References
☐ Main Subversive Case Files Only
☐ Subversive References Only
- ☐ Main Criminal Case Files Only
☐ Criminal References Only
☐ Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)
☐ Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)
- ☐ Restrict to Locality of _____

File & Serial Number Remarks File & Serial Number Remarks

100-39988-1
62-2017-512
9 May 1962 - 1140 ft (Kobbe)
100-10758-517
65-5029-5

Requested by _____ Squad _____ Extension _____ File No. _____

Searched by EE (date) _____

Consolidated by _____ (date) _____

Reviewed by _____ (date) _____

File Review Symbols
I - Identical ? - Not identifiable
NI - Not identical U - Unavailable reference

F B I

Date: 2/8/63

Transmit the following in

PLAIN TEXT

(Type in plain text or code)

Via

TELETYPE

DEFERRED

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (80-236) (26-36407)

RABBI MAX J. MERRITT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JEWISH COUNCIL AGAINST COMMUNISM, THIRTY DASH NINE FIFTY DASH NINE WEST SIXTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, RESEARCH PAREN CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS UNPAREN, BUDED FEBRUARY ELEVEN, NINETEEN SIXTY THREE.

LA INDICES NEGATIVE REGARDING JEWISH COUNCIL AGAINST COMMUNISM. LA INDICES CONTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE AGAINST COMMUNIST, INC. PAREN AJLAC UNPAREN, PAREN LA EIGHT ZERO DASH TWO THREE SIX UNPAREN. PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENSE BETWEEN BUREAU AND LA UNDER AJLAC IN NINETEEN FIFTY EIGHT CONCERNING AWARD TO DIRECTOR BY AJLAC ON SEPTEMBER SEVENTEEN FIFTY EIGHT AT STATLER HOTEL, LOS ANGELES. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ON FEBRUARY EIGHT NEXT, ADVISED

RABBI, MAX J. MERRITT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN JEWISH COUNCIL AGAINST COMMUNISM, IS KNOWN TO [REDACTED] BE ONE OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING PERSONS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ACTIVELY FIGHTING COMMUNISM. SOURCE ADVISED MERRITT GAVE INVOCATION

AT CHRISTIAN ANTI DASH COMMUNIST CRUSADE IN SUMMER NINETEEN

RHC:ELB

(1) [REDACTED]

b7C

Approved:

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

11-10 p

M

Per

[REDACTED]

LA 26-36407

PAGE TWO

SIXTY TWO SPONSORED BY [REDACTED] IN LA AND PARTICIPATED
IN THE CRUSADE. SOURCE STATED ORGANIZATION WAS FORMED BY A
GROUP OF VERY RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE OF THE JEWISH COMMITTEE AS
A JEWISH MOVEMENT TO COMBAT COMMUNISM. LEADERS OF AJLAC ARE
KNOWN [REDACTED] TO BE TRULY PATRIOTIC AND REPUTABLE CITIZENS
OF JEWISH BACKGROUNDS.

MERRITT IS ABOUT EIGHTY THREE YEARS OF AGE, WAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HILLEL FOUNDATION, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT BERKLEY FROM NINETEEN TWENTY NINE TO NINETEEN FORTY. HE
RETIRED SINCE THAT TIME EXCEPT FOR ONE AND A HALF YEARS
BETWEEN NINETEEN FORTY TWO AND NINETEEN FORTY FOUR WHEN HE
FILLED THE PULPIT AT A SYNAGOGUE IN SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA.
IN NINETEEN FORTY SIX TO FORTY EIGHT, HE HAS BEEN DIRECTOR
OF THE AJLAC. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

C-1
14-32/8
2-11-68

PLAIN TEXT

TELEGRAM

DEFERRED - NIGHT LETTER

**BARRY MAX J. MERRITT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JEWISH COUNCIL AGAINST COMMUNISM
3886 WEST SIXTH STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY FOURTH WAS RECEIVED DURING
MR. HOOVER'S ABSENCE FROM THE CITY. HE WILL NOT RETURN IN
TIME TO FURNISH THE MESSAGE YOU REQUESTED.

**HELEN W. GANDY, SECRETARY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

1 Los Angeles (80-236)

80-236-42

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (80-236)

DATE: 8/6/63

FROM : SA [REDACTED] b7C

SUBJECT: JEWISH COUNCIL AGAINST COMMUNISM
(JCAC)
INFORMATION CONCERNING

By letter dated 7/17/63, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] furnished the writer with a
typewritten copy of a letter dated 7/16/63 from [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Los Angeles, which had
been addressed to the JCAC. In his letter, [REDACTED] applied
for membership in the JCAC, and outlined his political
philosophy and academic background.

[REDACTED]

Receipt of [REDACTED] letter was acknowledged by
the writer on 7/23/63, and the contents of [REDACTED] letter
brought to the SAC's attention by routing slip dated 7/27/63.

b7C

b7D

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 06-15-2005 BY 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/bls

3 Los Angeles b7C
(1 - 105-6401) [REDACTED]
(1 - 136-424) (AMERICAN LEGION CONTACTS)
HGB:dac
(3)

236-42
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
AUG 6 1963
FBI - LOS ANGELES
JST

JEWISH COUNCIL AGAINST COMMUNISM

RABBI M. J. MERRITT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

6TH STREET & WESTERN AVENUE

3959 W. 6TH STREET • RM. 214

LOS ANGELES 5, CALIFORNIA

Telephone

382-0527

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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AL WEINBERG
MAX J. MERRITT

July 17, 1963

1/23/63 a/c. telephonically

b7C

[redacted] Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
1340 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles, California

b7C

Dear [redacted]:

The enclosed is a copy of a communication we received a few days ago. I do not know whether it has any significance or not, but you may find a spot for it in your files.

b7C

When Rabbi Max J. Merritt, former Executive Director of the American Jewish League Against Communism, which more recently changed its name to the Jewish Council Against Communism, passed away early in June, [redacted]

b7C

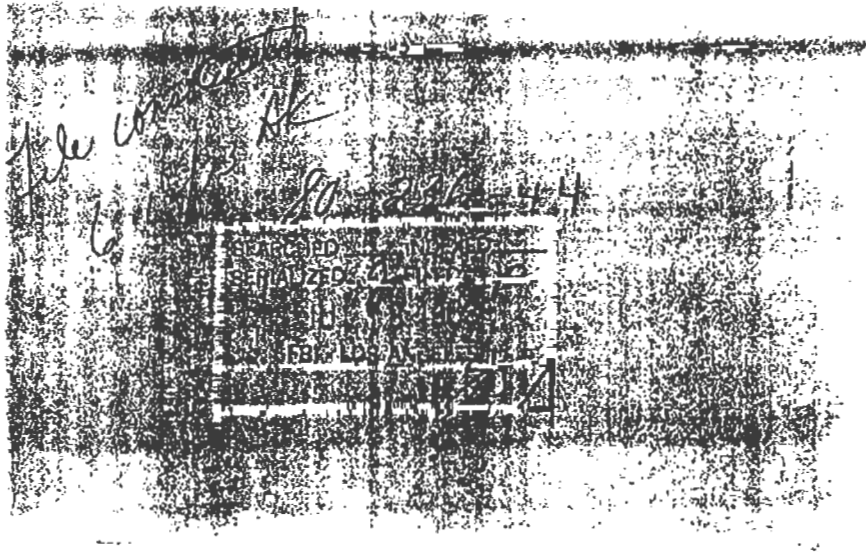
b7C

I think our first contacts date back to the early forties [redacted] and later during the late forties [redacted]

b7C

Your files will also show somewhere in the forties [redacted]

Back of Page



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 06-15-2005 BY 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/bls

b7C

[redacted] Agent

-2-

July 17, 1963

[redacted]
[redacted]

I have no particular reason for submitting the information above, other than to let you, and perhaps [redacted] know that we shall maintain the same cooperative position in the future as we have in the past, with reference to your office.

b7C

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

[redacted] b7C

end.

P. S. My residence address is [redacted]
[redacted] Los Angeles 47. [redacted]
[redacted]

b7C

C O P Y

b7C

Los Angeles 36, Calif.
July 16 1963

Dear Sirs:

I hope you'll not be too startled by the fact that I used an air mail stamp on this letter---it was the only stamp I had in the house, and I'm rather lazy today.

I phoned you a couple of weeks ago, and I was told that if I wanted to be a member I should write, giving my qualifications. Not having any qualifications, I can only say that if you'll accept me, I'll accept you.

b7C

My main interest is in mathematical applications to human behavioral phenomena (neuron circuit theory, Game Theory, etc.), which is a field in which sociology is coming to play an increasing part.

I suppose some of your members are in the Civil Service or other government departments. Even the Zionists-Revisionists, a right-wing group of which I was a member for some time, had their share of government employees as members. (The Zionists-Revisionists are still active in New York, supporting the right-wing Herut party of Israel, which is today the second largest party in Israel and is the main opposition to the socialists. They closed their L.A. office partly because half of their members leaned to the left and the other half just didn't give a damn about the organization.) My relations with Uncle Sam are not too cordial. I'm afraid that some of my right-wing ideas don't appeal to the State Department, and if you check with them or related departments you might find me listed as an anti-communist crackpot. That's all right with me, because in my book they're listed as a bunch of power-hungry bureaucrats.

There's one more thing. I believe strongly in the importance of morality in personal and private life. That may sound like I'm a Victorian, and I am. For example, I happen to be one of the few people who believe that the National Legion of Decency (a Catholic organization) should play an increased role as a private organization in influencing film standards. I'm against governmental censureship, but private organizations are very important, and as long as the Legion remains a private organization I'm going to support it. I mention this because there's only one thing I hate worse than socialism, and that's crime and immorality. A lot of people interested in politics, whether right-wing or left-wing, subordinate morality to their political goals. I don't and never will, and that's why I can sit back and laugh at the current scandals the Tories are having in England, because the Tories thought that politics was higher than morality.

I've been in the army and in the Civil Service and in a lot of places, and the army struck me as being just as bad as other places in the lack of understanding of individualism. To the military, in large part, individualism is an insidious subversive doctrine that tends to undermine subordination to authority and promote rebellion. Sure, they're anti-communist in the army; but the word "individualism" means about as much to them as "communism".

To me, individualism means the maximum freedom of the individual to control his own decisions with a minimum of interference either by the government or other sources of

C C P Y

power. It means most of all the small business, that rare part of life where a minimum of subordination to the will of others is realized. I'd like to see a nation of competing small businesses; it is one of the few traditions of Judaism of which I am proud after all these years. The Jew pioneered in the field of small businesses ---the independent owner, responsible to himself and to his customers only. I think that automation will eventually require that the labor class disappear altogether, and that they be retrained as independent small businessmen in the competitive system.

I took two things out of Judaism: the tradition of small businesses and the moral-religious heritage without the ritualistic trimmings. I left out socialism, which is a rather recent addition to the Jewish tradition and probably arose only because of the injustice of Czarist oppression. I dislike socialism, and I dislike the absurd adherence to ritual in place of underlying belief and morality. To me, the individual who believes in God and maintains a life free from lusts and vices and crime has done sufficient prayer before both himself and his Creator. Ritualism is as bad as socialism.

Now you can see why I'm against communism; if you still can't, I'll be glad to spell it out for you again when I'm in a lazy enough mood to write a letter. In the meantime, I might mention some of my more notorious ideas; that Cuba should be invaded, that Hungary should be freed, etc. You know, sometimes I wonder whether the American people aren't smarter than the President. If the people could vote on foreign policy, how long do you think Cuba would last? Not much longer than a Havana cigar.

If you ever get around to replying, remember that I'm not getting younger. 24 years is an age not to be laughed at, and you had better accept me as a member before I mellow. I should suggest that you first make a long investigation, especially interrogating the milkman and assorted acquaintances. You may find one skeleton in the closet: I'm a member of the Y.M.C.A. It's the old radical spirit popping up again.

Yours truly,

(signed)

[Redacted Signature]

b7C

This letter was addressed to:

American Jewish League Against Communism
3959 W. 6th St.
Los Angeles, Calif.

Postmark: 17 July

JEWISH COUNCIL AGAINST COMMUNISM
M. J. MERRITT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SIXTH STREET & WESTERN AVENUE
3959 W. 6TH STREET
LOS ANGELES 5, CALIFORNIA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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